



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind: Assault on Domestic Priorities Continues

Majority Party Short-Changes 'No Child Left Behind,' Rural Education, & Healthcare

Washington, DC –U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) voted against the FY 2006 Labor-Heath and Human Services-Education (Labor HHS), calling it the most inadequate appropriations bill in years and blasting it for its assault on several key education, healthcare, and job training services. In an attempt to address some of the drastic elements of the bill, Kind offered a bipartisan amendment to protect rural hospitals and also supported a successful effort by Rep. Dave Obey to restore the \$100 million proposed cut to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

“In light of the numerous unmet education, health care, and training needs around the country, this bill represents a moral failure and another example of how the misguided priorities and irresponsible tax and budget policies have real consequences for Americans,” said Kind, a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. “Furthermore, these cuts to education and health services translate into tax increases at the local level, as local units of government look to fill in the funding holes. We’ve already seen the drastic effects of the No Child Left Behind mandate on local property tax payers, and it isn’t pretty. Make no mistake, what this bill today really says is ‘Property Taxpayers Beware.’”

The state of Wisconsin stands to lose \$172,417,671 for No Child Left Behind, \$24,046,000 for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, \$2,810,000 for math and science education, and \$2,486,000 for rural education. At a time when rising property taxes weigh heavily on the minds of Wisconsin homeowners, these cuts will put additional pressures on state and local government to meet the needs of education and public health services. Meanwhile, the President and the majority leadership in Congress continue to pursue an agenda that includes another multi-billion tax cut package granting the few Americans earning more than \$1 million an average tax cut of \$140,000 per year.

A silver-lining is the restoration of the \$100 million in proposed cut to CPB. The amendment spares Wisconsin from a \$2,796,006 cut and La Crosse’s public radio station, WLSU-FM, from \$60,100 cut. Kind said of the amendment, “I am pleased that Republicans and Democrats could unite to reverse this ill-conceived cut and restore our commitment to a program that truly serves the public interest. The next generation will grow up knowing that ‘C is for Cookie,’ and that’s good enough for me.”

(more)

The amendment Rep. Kind offered would have protected Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) from a regulation proposed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to force a hospital moving more than 250 yards from its current site to lose funding. Kind eventually withdrew his amendment with a verbal commitment from the majority leadership to address the issue at a later date.

Shortfalls in the FY 2006 LHHS Bill

	Wisconsin Shortfall	Total Shortfall
No Child Left Behind	-\$172,417,671	-\$806,000,000
IDEA	-\$24,046,000	-\$3,908,901,000
Education Technology	-\$8,375,000	-\$196,000,000
Math & Science	-\$2,810,000	-\$260,000,000
Rural Education	-\$2,486,000	-\$129,376,000
Rural Health Care	NA	-\$44,000,000

The Senate will consider its appropriations bill later this year. The House-passed bill acts as a negotiating point when the two chambers ultimately meet to reconcile the differences between the two bills.